GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3233
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
NON-AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINES IN CGHS DISPENSARIES
Chaudhary Shri Pankaj;Khandelwal Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding non-availability of medicines in about 100 CGHS dispensaries in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether sufficient funds have been earmarked for purchase of medicines through local purchase;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the bills for local purchase have been settled;

(g) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, month-wise and year-wise;

(h) the steps the Government intends to take for proper supply of medicines and settlement of bills;

(i) whether the concerned CMO in each dispensary is involved in the alleged shortage of medicines; and

(j) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (h): Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiary from the Authorised local Chemist on the basis of individual prescription. In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries (including pensioner beneficiaries) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

The Authorised local chemists under CGHS Delhi had stopped the supply of indented medicines during the period 17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005. The matter has been resolved and the Authorised local chemists have since resumed the supply of local purchase indent medicines with effect from 1.3.2005. Due to the strike by the local chemists, eleven complaints were received from the beneficiaries regarding non- availability of medicines. During the period of stoppage of medicines by the Authorised Local Chemists, the CMO in-charges of the CGHS dispensaries were directed to permit the beneficiaries to purchase the non-available medicines in the dispensary from the open market and get the amount reimbursed from their respective offices in case of serving employees and from CGHS Dte. in case of the pensioner cardholders.

The reason for the strike cited by the authorized local chemists is late payment of their bills by the CGHS Directorate. Sometimes, due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year, additional funds are sought for clearing the bills of the CGHS Authorised local chemists.

The allocation of funds during the last three years in respect of CGHS under the Sub-Head Supplies and Material from which payment is made to the Authorised Local Chemists is as under:-

(Rupees in Crore)

Financial Year	Non-Plan		Plan	
	BE Stage	RE Stage	BE Stage	RE Stage

2001-2002	117.50	160.88	4.15	5.80
2002-2003	118.50	178.25	6.18	6.86
2003-2004	126.50	212.77	7.34	10.68

From the above figures, it can be seen that during the last three years, there has been increase in the budget allocation for supply of local purchase indent medicines through the Authorised Local Chemists under CGHS.

Settlement of bills of the Authorised local Chemists of CGHS Delhi is a continuous process and depends upon availability of funds. The detail of bills of the Authorised local Chemists of CGHS Delhi settled during the last two years is given at Annexure-`A`.

(i): No, Sir.

(j): In view of (i) above, the question does not arise.

ANNEXURE-`A`

Details of month-wise/year-wise expenditure are as under:-

Month	Year 2002-2003	Month	Year 2003-04
April, 2002	Rs.47167928/-	April, 2003	Rs.50005969/-
May, 2002	Rs.105809785/-	May, 2003	Rs.107461048/-
June, 2002	Rs.89147122/-	June, 2003	Rs.54451614/-
July, 2002	Rs.273116339/-	July, 2003	Rs.99446601/-
August, 2002	Rs.79176573/-	August, 2002	Rs.191346403/-
Sept.,2002	Rs.84068777/-	Sept.,2003	Rs.83954803/-
October, 2002	Rs.37769592/-	October, 2003	Rs.72381430/-
November,2002	Rs.58103310/-	November, 2003	Rs.131007052/-
December,2002	Rs.14774376/-	December, 2003	Rs.114802015/-
January, 2003	Rs.52884192/-	January, 2003	Rs.76909370/-
February,2003	Rs.129879214/-	February, 2003	Rs.51094303/-
March, 2003	Rs.218493498/-	March, 2003	Rs.87295798/-